

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS MUNICH 2275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, GW, GR

SUBJECT: STRAUSS' ALLEGED CONTACTS WITH GREEK RIGHTISTS

1. OVER PAST THREE WEEKS FRG PRESS HAS GIVEN DESULTORY COVERAGE TO ALLEGATIONS THAT INVOLVEMENT OF CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS AND HIS PARTY WITH RIGHTISTS EXTREMIST ELEMENTS IN GREECE HAS UPSET PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS AND LED GOG TO COMPLAIN TO FRG. SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES MATTICK (BERLIN) AND BAYERL (BAVARIA) HAVE RESURFACED THESE ALLEGATIONS IN PAST FEW DAYS.

2. IN ESSENCE, STRAUSS AND CSU ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE EXTENDED SUPPORT TO EXTREME RIGHTIST POLITICIANS WITH AIM OF WEAKENING KARAMANLIS' POSITION, SECURING GREECE'S RETURN TO FULL MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN NATO, ENCOURAGING RESUMPTION OF GREEK-TURKISH NEGOTIATIONS, AND REOPENING US BASES IN GREECE. KARAMANLIS IS ALLEGED TO HAVE HAD HIS CLOSE ADVISOR, STATE SECRETARY FOR PRESS LAMBRIAS, WRITE TO FRG VOERNMENT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT STRAUSS' ACTIVITY.

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3. CSU HAS COUNTERATTACKED ON SEVERAL FRONTS. AT PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 8, STRAUSS REJECTED THESE ALLEGATIONS, DECLARING THAT HE AND KARAMANLIS ARE FRIENDS OF LONGSTANDING AND ASSERTING THAT CSU SUPPORTS EFFORTS OF KARAMANLIS AND HIS PARTY TO REESTABLISH DEMOCRACY IN GREECE. ON SEPTEMBER 22, CSU SPOKESMAN CLAIMED THAT DEPUTY FRG SPOKESMAN GRUNEWALD WAS COMPELLED TO ADMIT THAT GOG HAD NOT REPORTED COMPLAINED TO FRG ABOUT STRAUSS. ON PREVIOUS DAY CSU SPOKESMAN HAD ACCUSED GREEK COMMUNISTS OF CONCOCTING THESE ALLEGATIONS AS "SUBSTITUTE FOR COLLAPSE OF LOCKHEED CAMPAIGN."

4. COMMENT: STRAUSS AND CUS INTERPRET THESE ALLEGATIONS AS PART OF CAMPAIGN TO PORTRAY STRAUSS AS DANGEROUS RIGHT RADICAL. CSU RESPONSE, TO THESE CHARGES SUGGESTS APPREHENSION ABOUT THEIR POSSIBLE EFFECT ON SWING-VOTERS. BETTS

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